

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
/064 W

-----053283 091644Z /47

O R 091453Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8143
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13247

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

FROM DCM MATTHEWS (AMB IN ALEXANDRIA)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG US IS
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO CARTER OFFER TO PALESTINIANS

1. OPTIMISM OF CAIRO MEDIA AUGUST 9 OVER " BREAKTHROUGH"
ON PALESTINIAN FRONT ALSO REFLECTED IN COMMENTS WE
HEARING FROM WELL INFORMED EGYPTIANS. ONE OF FAHMY'S
CLOSEST AIDES, AMRE MOUSSA, TOLD POLCOUNS PRESIDENT CARTER'S
STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN ACCEPTANCE 242 WITH ADDITIONAL
STATEMENT WAS "MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT SINCE OCTOBER
WAR". MOUSSA SOMEWHAT NERVOUS ABOUT WIDE PUBLICITY
SUBJECT RECEIVING BEFORE PLO AGREEMENT OBTAINED, BUT HE
HOPED ON BALANCE PUBLICITY WOULD INCREASE PRESSURE ON
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PLO TO ACCEPT OFFER IN ORDER TO BEGIN TALKING TO USG.
MOUSSA DID NOT, HOWEVER, BELITTLE THE SELLING JOB GOE
AND OTHER WOULD HAVE TO DO WITH ARAFAT.

2. DESPITE SOME NEWS REPORTS INDICATING PLO DECISION TO
ACCEPT 242 WITH ADDITIONAL STATEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE
APPROVED BY PNC, OUR EGYPTIAN INTERLOCUTORS SAY EXCOM

HAS AUTHORITY (PRESUMABLY UNDER CONFIDENTIAL MANDATE
AGREED TO AT MARCH 1977 PNC --PARA 2, CAIRO 4798) TO TAKE
SUCH ACTION.

3. RELIABLE JOURNALISTS TELLS US A SENIOR PLO REP IN CAIRO
TOLD HIM TODAY PLO HAS ALREADY REJECTED IDEA OF ACCEPTANCE
242 WITH SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT. INSTEAD, WHAT PLO
AIMING FOR IN RESOLUTION THAT WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTARY
TO 242 AND WOULD WHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS,
INCLUDING RIGHT TO FORM INDEPENDENT STATE. SUCH A RESOLU-
TION WOULD PRESUMABLY ENSURE PLO ATTENDANCE AT GENEVA, NOT
JUST POSSIBILITY OF TALKING TO USG.

4. COMMENT: WIDESPREAD HOPES EXIST HERE THAT PLO WILL
TAKE UP CARTER OFFER IN NEAR FUTURE. THEY RECOGNIZE IT
WOULD BE "ACT OF FAITH" IN PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT MAINTAIN
IT WOULD SO DRAMATIZE ARAB AND PLO FLEXIBILITY IN CONTRAST
TO ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE THAT GENEVA MIGHT NOT EVEN BE
NECESSARY FOR FURTHER PROGRESS. ONUS FOR STATEMENT WOULD
BE COMPLETELY ON ISRAEL AND IT WOULD HAVE TO START BUDGING.
EILTS

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